

# Spark Gap

Vol. 30, Issue 2, February 2013 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for Thirty - Years*

On Our MARC...

Congratulations to the 10 students who successfully earned their tickets as a part of the MARC's One-day Technician's class on February 9th. Many thanks to all of the instructors who gave so generously of their time and talents. Thanks, too, to the best VE Team that any club could have. And special thanks to all of our members who stopped by throughout the day to make our students feel welcomed.

As announced last month, the MARC will sponsor a "Helping Hams" session at this weekend's meeting to assist our newly-licensed amateurs in getting started in the hobby. We hope to have a number of you bring in your handhelds, mobiles, and other equipment for a "Show 'N Tell." We also hope to use our radio room to get our new members on the air. If you would be willing to bring in some equipment, or help in other ways with this event, please contact Steve Curtis, ND9C at [nd9c@comcast.net](mailto:nd9c@comcast.net).

This year's Storm Spotter Training class will be on Monday evening, March 18th, at the EOC in Franklin at 7:00 p.m. If you wish to attend, you are asked to register with Stephanie Sichting, the Johnson County Director of Emergency Management. You may do so by sending an e-mail to [ssighting@co.johnson.in.us](mailto:ssighting@co.johnson.in.us).

We hope to see you this Saturday for the meeting. I'll have the coffee pot on!

Bob - KC9NJM

*President*

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**NWS Storm Spotter Training**

**Monday March 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM**

**Johnson County EOC**

**Contact: Stephanie Sichting, Johnson County EMA Director**

**[ssighting@co.johnson.in.us](mailto:ssighting@co.johnson.in.us) to register for the class.**

## Packet Power Feb 10, 2013

Thanks to a grant from Homeland Security we now have a full time packet station in the club radio room. Wading through weeks of government paperwork and requirements Jack W8ISH submitted a proposal for the new data station. It includes a Kantronics KPC3 plus TNC for decoding the data, a new 2-meter Yaesu FT 1900R radio, Astron 20amp power supply, Diamond base antenna and enough coax to hit the top of a 200 foot tower.

This communications package includes a new Toshiba laptop computer. It can be used for other digital modes as needed.

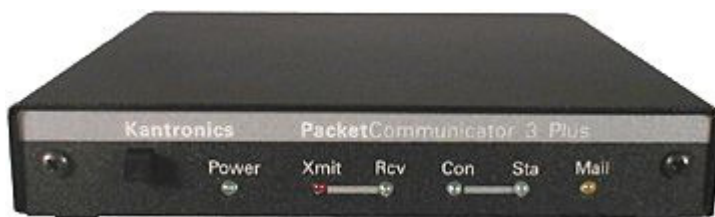
Early last year Indiana Homeland Security planners decided each Indiana county should have a packet station for relaying important data. Amateur Radio packet has been around since the late 80s and was used for bulletin boards and sharing information by hams across the county. There were many well established ham packet networks before the World Wide Web made it's debut.

Jack W8ISH will be holding training classes for anyone interested in learning this new-old form of communication.

-w8ish



YEASU FT-1900R



Kantronics KPC 3 plus

## Tech Class Feb 2013

What promised to be a record number of students for the February 9<sup>th</sup> Tech Class turned out leaving us with the late winter blues. Despite excellent weather for early February, only eleven of thirty candidates made the trip to Franklin for the One-Day-Tech-Class. Ten of the eleven passed giving us a 91 percent success rate.

This semi-annual event has become such a popular training event that we now have a waiting list of people from around the region signed up. No date has been set for the next class.

Our hands on demonstrations kept things moving throughout the long day. Instructors Steve Ellis- AF9SF, Bruce Tisdale-K9ICP, Steve Carmean-K9DY, Jack Parker-W8ISH, Rhonda Curtis-WS9H and Bob Jones-KC9NJM all brought ham radio equipment and parts to educate the crowd.

In one example, Steve Ellis using a rope, demonstrated frequency and radio wave theory. One student thought they would have to skip rope to pass this class. In another example, aided by Mary Sluder, he showed how a magnet passed through a copper tube creates electromotive force fields.

Our thanks to all the extra club members who came down to support our team throughout the day. Once again, we proved that MARC is a first class club.



-w8ish

Bruce and his tuner



Steve Brown's radio compos



Test takers ..... quiet please

## Hamfests

### Brownsburg Hamfest

Sat 02-16 6:00am

American Legion Post 331, Brownsburg, Indiana

ADMISSION: \$5.00

VENDORS: \$15.00 PER TABLE WITH POWER, \$10.00 WITHOUT POWER

PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

Set up available on Friday, the 15th from 2:30-8:30 pm

Bring your own power strips and cables

Table sales at the door if available both days

Talk-in on 147.015 +

NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS

For more information, contact Wayne Fox KE9P at [hcars46122@gmail.com](mailto:hcars46122@gmail.com) or 317-204-2725.

### Cabin Fever Hamfest; LaPorte

Sat 02-23 9:00am

The Hamfest is located at the LaPorte Civic Auditorium at 1001 Ridge Street, LaPorte, IN.

Talk-In is on the 146.610 (131.8PL) repeater.

Admission

\$5.00 per adult (children under 12 free, with paying adult)

Table reservations

\$12.00 per table (plus \$5.00 admission fee per adult)

<http://lpcarc.org/hamfest/index.html>

Contact

Email [info@lpcarc.org](mailto:info@lpcarc.org) for more information or table reservations.

### Wabash Valley Hamfest; Terre Haute

Sat 03-09 9:00am

<http://w9uuu.org/hamfest.html>

### Columbus Hamfest

Sat 04-13 8:00am

The Columbus Hamfest will be held at the Bartholemew County Fairgrounds, located at 750 W CR 200S south of Columbus. From I-65, take the SR 46 exit (Exit 68) east towards Columbus, turn south on SR 11 and go about 1.9 miles to CR 200 S, then go west.

<http://www.carcnet.org/Downloads/Hamfest2013.pdf>

#### North Central Indiana Hamfest

Sat 04-20 7:00am

The Kokomo Amateur Radio Club is again sponsoring the North Central Indiana Hamfest for 2013.

It is located at the Miami County 4H Fairgrounds at 1029W 200N, just north of Peru, IN

Admission is \$5.00 at the door; 17 and under are free. Free Parking as well.

Talk-in is on the 147.345 Repeater.

<http://www.nci-hamfest.net/>

#### Dayton Hamvention

Repeats every day until Sun May 19 2013 .

Fri 05-17 8:00am

Sat 05-18 8:00am

The largest amateur radio exposition and flea market in the midwest.

Hara Arena, 1001 Shiloh Springs Rd., Dayton OH

[www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org)

#### Indianapolis Hamfest

Sat 07-13 6:00am

NEW LOCATION

The 2013 Indianapolis Hamfest will be held at the Marion County Fair Grounds, 7300 East Troy Ave., Indianapolis, IN.

<http://www.indyhamfest.com/>

#### Hoosier Hills (Bedford) Hamfest

Sat 10-05 8:00am

The Hoosier Hills (Bedford) Hamfest is the first Saturday in October at the Lawrence County 4H Fairgrounds, just off of US-50, west of SR-37.

Talk-in is on the 146.730 (107.2PL) Repeater in Bedford.

<http://www.w9qyq.org/>

## MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the THIRD SATURDAY of each month in the basement of the Johnson County Emergency Management Agency, 1111 Hospital Road, Franklin, Indiana 46131.

See our website, [www.midstatehams.org](http://www.midstatehams.org), for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a HAM to attend our meetings or be a member of the club.

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**WA9RDF**  
**Repeater**  
**146.835/**  
**146.235 MHz**  
**151.4 Hz PL Tone**

**Club Officers:**  
**President: Robert Jones – KC9NJM**  
**Vice President: Jack Parker – W8ISH**  
**Secretary: Rhonda Curtis – WS9H**  
**Treasurer: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG**  
**Repeater Trustee: Steve Brown – N9LC**

**Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS**

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***The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club***

*P.O. Box 836  
Franklin, Indiana  
46131*

***Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU***

***Please send your articles to my email [n9siu@yahoo.com](mailto:n9siu@yahoo.com) no later than the 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month***

